

are making it difficult for heirs to hold onto family farms and small businesses. I believe that it is time to take action to reform the estate tax so that it will be easier for family farmers and small business owners to pass their operations on to their children.

The Family Business Preservation Act is a targeted tax exclusion that is designed to have the biggest possible impact on family business owners with the smallest possible impact on the Federal Treasury. The bill would exclude the first \$1.2 million of value in a family-owned business interest from a decedent's estate. The new exclusion would be provided in addition to the unified credit which currently lets heirs protect up to \$600,000 of their inheritance from the estate tax.

It is critical to take action on estate tax reform now. The \$600,000 exemption to the estate tax has not been raised since the mid-1980's. And rising farmland costs coupled with an aging farm population makes swift action on this proposal critical.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Please join me in taking a step to ensure that when a family has to face personal tragedy, such as the death of a parent or a loved one, they will not have to worry that it will also lead to the loss of their family farm or business.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am pleased to come before you today to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements of citizens in my home district and the County of San Bernardino.

As the proceedings concluded last month in Philadelphia at the President's Summit for America's Future, those who have contributed and made a difference in their communities were commemorated. Through both community service and volunteerism, the County of San Bernardino has made a difference.

Participating in the sixth annual "Make A Difference Day," citizens of San Bernardino County defined the term intensely debated over the past few weeks: volunteerism.

In answer to the challenge of Make A Difference Day, San Bernardino organized a project, spearheaded by Mayor Tom Minor, entitled "Community Cleanup: Our Fight Against Blight." As a result, 130 residents from various neighborhoods came out of their houses, set aside differences and worked on a common goal, making their city better. Given the opportunity to communicate and openly express concerns, any neighborhood can become a better place to live. This is exactly what happened on October 26, 1996.

As the fragmented lines that sometimes divide our communities along ethnic, social, and economic barriers were set aside, a single task united the County of San Bernardino.

On October 26, up to 10,000 cars and trucks lined the streets of San Bernardino, all in an effort to properly dispose of 3½ tons of trash. In addition, 5,000 tires were collected and 2,400 gallons of used oil and other hazardous waste were recycled and disposed.

Community Cleanup: Our Fight Against Blight, brought businesses, government, and

residents together with a common goal of giving back to the community. This goal was realized by actions such as 16 of the county land fills being open free of charge, and the San Bernardino Refuse Department making free rounds collecting used and unwanted tires.

October 26 was clearly a day when individual residents took responsibility and gave back to the community. The separation of generations had no bearing, as members of all sectors of the community participated. From Girl Scouts collecting trash, to senior citizens cleaning a 4-mile radius of rubbish, the County of San Bernardino made a difference. The volunteers from San Bernardino County served as a shining example for residents of other neighborhoods and communities. Their efforts were so exemplary that they were chosen as a top 10 winner of the sixth annual USA Weekend's "Make A Difference Day" project. The citizens of San Bernardino County have proven that when we come together as neighbors, under a common cause, we can truly make a difference.

DISASTER RELIEF—OAKFIELD, WI

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the tornado disaster in Oakfield, WI, I would like to recognize the following 25 men who gave of their personal money, time, and energy to assist with tornado relief. At the invitation of State Senator Carol Buettner, and under the direction of George Workman, Marquette County emergency management director, they served in and around the city of Oakfield, WI, for a period of 2 weeks from July 19 to July 29, 1996. During this time they coordinated relief efforts in removal of trees from homes and cleanup of house debris, while spreading goodwill, faith, hope, and charity wherever they went. Their sacrifice, diligence, and thoroughness conveyed a true sense of brotherly love to the citizens of Oakfield. The experiences these men received while serving will enrich their lives permanently, causing them to become better citizens, and thus have a greater impact on the world around them.

LISTING OF STUDENTS AND (STATES)

Matthew Bertholic (WA), Benjamin Blair (CA), Jonathan Bowers (TN), Jason Butler (AL), David Carne (OR), David Curlett (TX), Timothy Davis (CA), Paul Ellis (MS), Gerald Garcia (MI), Andrew Griffin (WA), Craig Guy (MO).

Trevor Hayes (NY), Joshua Kempson (NJ), Matthew Linquist (CA), Clayton Lord (KS), Russell Moulton (OK), Keon Pendergast (CA), Carl Popowich (CO), Jeremy Sikes (IA), Robert Smith (CA), John Tanner (MI), Matthew Watkins (CA), Matthew Wood (WA), John Worden (CA).

DISASTER RELIEF—BULLITT COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the tornado disaster in Bullitt

County, KY, I would like to recognize the following 19 men who gave of their personal money, time, and energy to assist with tornado relief. At the invitation of state senator Lindy Casebier, and under the direction of the Army Reserve command post, they served in and around the cities of Brooks and Zoneton for a period of 2 weeks from May 31, 1996, to June 12, 1996. During this time they coordinated relief efforts in removal of trees from homes and cleanup of house debris, while spreading goodwill, faith, hope, and charity wherever they went. Their sacrifice, diligence, and thoroughness conveyed a true sense of brotherly love to the citizens of these communities. The experiences these men received while serving will enrich their lives permanently, causing them to become better citizens, and thus have a greater impact on the world around them.

Jason Allen, Ohio; Kory Boudreau, Illinois; T.W. Chapman, Michigan; Michael Forrester, Tennessee; Stanley Forrester, Tennessee; Timothy Hammeke, Kansas; Marvin Heikkila, Michigan; Jason Litt, Ohio; Jason Mallow, Georgia; Daniel Reynolds, Minnesota; Jeremy Sikes, Iowa; Ben Stixrud, Washington; John Tanner, Michigan; Joshua Tanner, Michigan; Justin Tanner, Michigan; Zachary Taylor, Wisconsin; Michael Shoemaker, Indiana; and Matthew Yordy, Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO COL. JAMES VAN EPPS IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great stature who is retiring after a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, Col. James Van Epps. Colonel Van Epps served in the U.S. Army with more than 30 years of dedicated service to our country.

For the past 2 years Colonel Van Epps has held the position of Commander, North Central Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago, IL. In this position, Colonel Van Epps faced the daunting task of solving water and land resource related problems in a 12 State area from North Dakota to New York, from the Canadian border to parts of Missouri. Colonel Van Epps manages a \$380 million budget and directed the engineering, scientific, and support staff of approximately 2,700 personnel who are engaged in civil works construction and environmental activities in this part of the United States. Included in this area are all of the Great Lakes and the upper Mississippi River, in addition to the Souris, Red, and Rainey River Basins. The division's major missions include navigation, flood control, and disaster assistance as well as environmental restoration, regulatory functions, and significant support to the International Joint Commission.

Colonel Van Epps has continually met challenges headon during his tenure, continuing the superb performance record of the North Central Division. Through his personal involvement, leadership and command attention, the Corps made notable progress in the pursuit of solutions to the unique problems which exist throughout the region.